

Honors English 9

Bradley High School
2009-2010
Summer Reading Assignment



Required Book:
Of Mice and Men



The Assignment:
Read and annotate the novel, Of Mice and Men

Important Note:

Since you will be annotating, you must purchase your own copy of the book so that you can write inside of the text.

Annotation Guidelines

Here's some common questions regarding annotation, along with helpful answers.

What does it mean to annotate?

To annotate is to simply make notes on the pages of a text. This means that you should underline and highlight words, sentences, and passages, and accompany this underlining and highlighting with notes in the margin to explain the significance of the text that you have marked.

Is it okay to just highlight or underline these things/ideas?

No...to annotate means to *make notes*. As the answer to the above question indicates, highlighting and underlining is only a part of thorough annotation. You must take it a step further with notes in the margins regarding your underlined/highlighted portions.

What is the purpose of annotating?

It helps readers TO ENGAGE IN ACTIVE READING!! By becoming more active readers, we engage in the text on a deeper level, which helps us to better understand the action of the plot as well as overall ideas and themes. An added bonus of being an active reader is that you'll be less likely to need to reread pages because you zone out—if you're being active, you won't zone out! ☺

What kinds of things should be annotated in the text?

What you annotate is essentially up to you. You should be annotating anything that helps you to better understand the text. But, to be more specific, here's a list to help you...

▪ **Literary Devices** (see the attached list of definitions of literary devices to help you here):

- | | | |
|--------------------|-------------------------|---------------------------------|
| ➤ Themes | ➤ Tone and tone changes | ➤ Similes |
| ➤ Motifs | ➤ Characterization | ➤ Metaphors |
| ➤ Symbols | ➤ Foreshadowing | ➤ Any other literary devices... |
| ➤ Distinct Diction | ➤ Irony | |

▪ **Questions:** Write questions in the margins regarding anything that confuses you, you wonder about, or you think would be good for class discussion

▪ **Clarification:** Write your own words in the margins to clarify difficult passages.

▪ **Inference/Interpretation:** Note any inferences/interpretations you make.

▪ **Vocabulary:** Underline/highlight/circle difficult vocabulary words, and write the appropriate definitions in the margin. If there is not enough room in the margin, you could use the front or back cover to write the definitions.

How important is it to always include annotations of all of the types in the above-listed bullet points?

Variety is pretty important—not because it's a class assignment, but because if you are annotating according to the various types of annotations listed above, then you are being a truly active reader, and likely only increasing your understanding of the text.

You must bring your annotated Of Mice and Men novel to school beginning on the first day! We will use this summer assignment as an essential tool for discussion within the beginning weeks of school.

Honors English 9
SUMMER WORK LITERARY DEVICES

Literary Term	Definition	Example(s)
allusion	a reference to a famous historical or literary figure or event	<p>In <u>Robinhood: Men in Tights</u>, Robinhood says, “Friends, Romans, countrymen, lend me your ears.” This is an allusion to Antony’s funeral speech in <u>Julius Caesar</u>.</p> <p>In <u>Mr. Deeds</u>, Babe Bennett says that she climbed Boo Radley’s tree. This is an allusion to <u>To Kill a Mockingbird</u>.</p>
characterization	<p>the ways in which an author presents his/her characters</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ The primary methods of characterization are... <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ description of physical appearance ▪ the character’s speech, thoughts, feelings, or actions ▪ the speech, thoughts, feelings, or actions of other characters ▪ direct comments about the character 	
conflict	<p>a struggle between opposing forces, which is the driving force of a story</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ There are two types of conflict: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ <i>internal</i> – a conflict within a character; often a decision the character has to make ▪ <i>external</i> – a conflict between the character and an outside force 	<p>Internal conflict:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. deciding whether to use a hall pass or a tardy in order to go to the restroom <p>External conflict:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Man vs. the storm outside
diction	the writer’s choice of words	
figurative language	<p>Any use of language where the intended meaning differs from the actual literal meaning of the words themselves</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ There are many techniques that can be called figurative language, including... <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ metaphor ▪ simile ▪ hyperbole ▪ personification ▪ onomatopoeia ▪ oxymoron ▪ verbal irony 	
foreshadowing	hints or clues used to indicate events and situations that will occur later in a plot	
imagery	language which describes something in detail, using words that appeal to the five senses	

irony	<p>a special kind of contrast between appearance and reality—usually one in which reality is the opposite of what it seems</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ <i>dramatic irony</i>: where the reader or viewer knows something that a character does not know ➤ <i>situational irony</i>: the contrast between what a reader or character expects and what actually exists or happens ➤ <i>verbal irony</i>: when someone knowingly exaggerates or says one thing and means another (Sarcasm is a tone of voice that often accompanies verbal irony, but they are not the same thing.) 	
metaphor	a comparison between two unlike things that does not use “like” or “as”	The hallways of my high school are a zoo.
mood	the feeling or atmosphere that the writer creates for the reader	
motif	a recurring important idea or image	
personification	a figure of speech in which human qualities are attributed to an object, animal, or idea	The wind whistled in my ear.
repetition	where a specific word, phrase, or structure is repeated several times, to emphasize a particular idea	
setting	the time and place of a story	
simile	a comparison using “like” or “as”	The hallways of my high school are like a zoo.
symbol	<p>a person, a place, an activity, or an object that stands for something beyond itself...</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ A symbol must be something tangible or visible, while the idea it symbolizes must be something abstract or universal. 	1. A dove symbolizes peace.
theme	<p>the main idea or message conveyed by the piece</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ A theme is generally stated as a complete sentence; an idea expressed as a single word or phrase is a motif. 	
tone	the attitude a writer takes toward a subject	
tragedy	where a story ends with a negative or unfortunate outcome which was essentially avoidable, usually caused by a flaw in the central character’s personality	
tragic flaw	the single characteristic (usually negative) or personality disorder which causes the downfall of a central character	
tragic hero	a central character who comes to a bad end as a result of his own behavior (i.e., his tragic flaw)	